A DISCOVERY OF DIVERS SORTS OF ASSES:

WITH

The Deſcription of their Condition, ſetting them forth in proper Colours, according to Smithfields Fancies and Inventions.

ALSO,

Follies Petition againſt all ſorts of Fooles and Aſſes, deſiring to have them baniſht to the Ile of SILLIE.

Stultorum plena ſunt omnia.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

IT is well known that in Diebus illis, in former times, I was a very dirty myry Smithfield, & a very Dunghill of deformities, untill the city brought me into compasse, rayling me in on every side, that I might come into due form and proportion.

Now there comes into the walks in Smithfield many horses, various in shape, colour, and condition, which are rodden together in a shufling pace to allure & draw on buyers: I could wish therfore for novelties sake, that all ignorant Asses, black, red, gray & brown, might be all brought on a day into Smithfield, for else they will never be sold to their worth, and let them be ridden with bridles of authority in their mouths, or else they will fall to braying and rayling against their Governours, and Masters: for an Asse when he is angry wil encounter with a Lyon, though he lose his skin; but if those Asses kick and fling against their Riders authority, let them be tyed to my Rails in Smithfield, or to the sign-posts that stand a crosse, for if they be thus haltred it will learn them more wit.

But because I Smithfield am no Scholler, nor understand any thing but Horses and Oxen, who with their hoofes would fain beat wit into me, but cannot: & therfore setting learning aside and beyond my Barres, I will seek all the Corners of my Invention, especially my Tavern corners, and with the vermillion colour of wine, paint out and describe my Market or Fayre of Asses in such manner as I can fashion and form them according to Smithfields fancie.

First, you know that the spirit seasonable, if it could

assume an unreasonable figure and shape, might and would appeare often in the forme and likenesse of an Asse, but of severall conditions and qualities, so that Smithfield doth in this fained Fayre or Market intend to describe and explaine the colours, complexion, properties and conditions of severall sorts and kindes of verationall qualities that may bee denominated and called Asses, for Smithfield medles with no persons but asse-like properties.

The Ignorant Asse is the asse of asses, most excellent and eminent in nonsence and want of understanding, he is dull of conceit, and his words walke alone without wit in a slow asse-like pace, and this asse is a tumbler at all things, and a great stumbler, especially at straws, he is fearefull as it is the nature of ignorance to be, and will start at every thing, this asse knowes nor understands any thing but eating and drinking, pissing and farting, and living according to instinct of Nature.

The proud Asse is contrary to the former, for hee holds up his head as if it were full of braines, when there's nothing but empty windines, yet he will play with his Bridle, looke often upon his legs and body, & then smile to himselfe, as if hee would say, how brave am I? Alexanders Bucephalus was a Jade in respect of me, this kind of animall thinks himselfe wise, and scornes all but himselfe.

The Covetous Asse loves to carry burthens and heavie loades of Cabbages and Turnips, but never eates a bit, takes paines and weares his hoofes to pieces with trotting up and downe to gather wealth for others, hope of profit is his onely provinder, which makes this asse look so thin and leane, that one of his jaw bones would serve Sampson to kill a 1000. Philistines withall; he had rather part with skin than his riches, which when he dyes hee leaves behinde him to

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some young Heyre that is an arranter asse then himself. But to come to the asses of the times, is not the petty-fogging Lawyer a kind of stupid Dullman, that has been indeed in much request, and many Countreymen have appeared in the shape of Angels to make these asses speake as Balaams did, but now they may shake their long eares, for they can no longer graze upon and devoure the poore Commons, so that now they are growne stark dumbe, and if they will do any thing they may turne Porters, because they how to carry the matter very well.

But there are certaine kind of asses that have raw wits and Round-heads, these are mad kicking flinging animals, that can't endure the Bridle of Authority, and if they come by any thing that is like a crosse, they will start and turn back again, and run out of the way with their Prick-eares as if they were mad, in the Country they will trot five or sixe miles to Church, and returne againe without eating a bit, and in London in regard of their proud abominable ignorance, bleating & braying of Sermons out of Tubbes, and for their blockish stubbornenes in scorning Learning, they may be justly called stiffe-necked asses.

There are another sort of asses that doe think themselves fine fellowes, because they can in an obstreperous manner outswagger the Devill, and so thunder out execrations against the poore Round-heads, that they dare not shew their heads when the Rattle-heads be in place: so that the one seemes like Sampson with a long bush of hayre as if his strength lay therein, and the other Rotundian animall lookes with a sapercilious countenance as smooth as a scalded Pigge; and therefore the one doth reside at York, and the other that is the Round-heads live plentifully at racke and manger in London.

If you desire to know the symptomes and signes of your gray Asses, they are so big-bodyd and so well trapped with gold and silver, that you cannot overlook them, they are somewhat stricken in yeeres, and by the statelinesse of their pace you would thinke them as wise as a City Justice. this asse gets on the Lions skin, and with the authority of his warrants frights delinquents, and at a Sessions he shapes on a Bench, if he be of the inferiour sort, his gray head shakes with a Palsie ague, and he walks on three Legs that is by the support of his staffe, and at last marries a yong wench when he can neither neigh nor wag taple.

There is moreover a mad-braind Asse, that is so wilfull, that he will not be reformed by any good counsell, but will violently run on in all pernicious courses, he will run his head against a post if he be angry, and will stray abroad into all wild and vitious paths, until at last hee be caught and put into the Pound, that is, into the Counter or Ludgate.

The Cock braind Asse is somewhat like the mad-braind, but they differ because the Cock-braind is ever running after females, and affecting change in all things, this Asse will leape his Neighbors wife, and will breake over the hedge of Matrimony to come at her, hee will take a journey onely to see Townes, or to dine at Barnet and come back againe, for his actions are precipitate without any intention or end, he loves to be in the fashion, weare fine cloathes and have a new Mistris, when he has the happinesse to purchase a new suit, this is a kind of Taylors asse, that changes himselfe into all shapes and colours.

The haire-braind Asse is itinerarious and rash, and casting up his head will rush forward though hee fall into a ditch or quagmire, this Asse will without any advice runne his head into the halter of Marriage, or debt,

debt, and ſometimes by ſtobbing and committing man-ſlaughter, brings himſelfe to ſing a pen tentiall Pſalm at Tyburne, hee is very much ſubject unto Quarrels, and vents his ordinary anger with beating his wife and ſervants, or breaking his Tobacco pipes againſt the walls, age and the whip of wedlock may tame this Aſſe.

Beſides all theſe there are many other Aſſes, as your Frenchified aſſe, that goes ſtradling with his legges ſo wide aſunder, that a Wheelebarrow may runne betweene them, and this came with leaping of Mules and Muliers, that is women.

There are alſo intelligent Aſſes that will diſcourſe profoundly of matters above their underſtanding. And valiant aſſes, that when they come into the Field will ſhoote wet powder backward, and beſhite themſelves for feare. Folly therefore being aſhamed that the old Proverbe is true, Stultorum plena ſunt omnia, the world is full of Fooles and aſſes, hath framed this petition againſt all ſorts of aſſes.

Follies Petition against all sorts of Fools and Asses.

Proudly and foolishly sheweth,

THat whereas a number of asses and malignant parties have long eares, and do eate more hay then their bodies are worth, being shitten companions, and hare-braind corcombs, whose understandings are full of want of knowledge, plotting many things in their dreames, and contriving such strange devices, as the Wisemen of Goreham never thought on, and whereas some of them out of their stubborne sences, medling as fooles will doe, with politick businesses, drinke themselves drunke with discoursing thereon: and whereas there are many prating, gaping, covetous, & factious fooles, humerous fooles, and timerarious fooles, fooles in long coats and cloakes; and whereas some of them have endeavoured, contrary to the Lawes of Reason and the peace of the Ile of Man, to fill a seive with water, and not only to drowne Eeles, but to put red Herring into the Thames to breed there, and to catch all the Raine that hath fell in Bottles, folly therefore desireth, that these and all other sorts of fooles may be banished to the Ile of Silly, there to make a Commonwealth of Corcombs.

FINIS.